

# The Athenian Mercury.

Saturday, May 4. 1695.

Quest. 1.

**G**entlemen, You are desired by an unfortunate Lady, that lies under Two Obligations, to oblige her with your Opinion, Which of the Two will be the lesser Evil to dispence with? There was a Gentleman that lately courted her, to whose Addresses she hath been so grateful, to make him a promise of marriage, without her Parents Knowledge. Before the Nuptials could be solemniz'd, her mother discover'd the Intrigue; and has forbid her, by all the Duty she owes her, Never to marry this Gentleman. The Lady is distracted between Love and Duty, and begs your advice in your Next Mercur.

*Ans.* If there can be no bringing your mother to comply with your desires, you are obliged to comply with hers.

Quest. 2. I am an Old maid, being turned of 30 Years of Age, and now in the State which I always dreaded; for though I have said my prayers, with patience, once a day, yet now I fancy I am at my last; and cannot tell, why Fortune should be more unkind to me than she hath been to all the rest of my Relations; for I never yet could get the Embraces of any man, but what was either a Taylor, Weaver, or Journeyman-Shoemaker; all which Trades I have a great Aversion unto. Nevertheless, I would not have Refus'd them all, but that I have more Love for a Barber, who used to honour me with his company a little now and then. But since he understands that I am in Love with him, he doth not only Refrain coming at me, but also avoids my company at all places where I go in hopes to get a sight of him. Now, Gentlemen, my Request is, That you would please to advise what method is best for me to take; as also what I shall do to turn this Tyrant's Heart; Otherwise I must be forc'd to take one of the forementioned Trades, or at least the first that comes. Please to excuse this trouble; for I think my self Old enough to go to bed with a husband as well as other honest women. Neither am I so much to be grinn'd at, having Two Trades, viz. the Art of Japanning and Periwig making; besides 30 or 40 l. in Ready Money, and a Ticket at Esq; Neal's Lottery.

*Ans.* Marry as fast as you can, Repent, and then grow wiser.

Quest. 3. A. B. contracted to H. H. and broke a peice of silver together; and wish'd, That that peice of silver might be witness against 'em at the Day of Judgment, that deviated from the Contract, and that the Devil might have the first Egressor.

The Circumstances of both are but servile and mean; and A. B. from time to time defers the Consummation of the marriage, fearing he shall not be able to maintain her; and is unwilling to entail Ruine upon her and his posterity; and for that Reason desires to stay till Fortune may favour them more.

But in the Godspeed comes P. S. a brisk Young Fellow, and settled in a pretty good way; and he makes strong Court to H. H. and pretends great Kindness, and desires to take her for better or for worse; and she has Naturally a greater Fancy for the latter than the former, and is afraid of losing so fair an Opportunity, if she might be free from the first.

Q. Whether shall she stay till A. B. his Circumstances may mend, and lose the Opportunity of the latter, who presses her to marry, and she believes will not live long

single? Or may she justifiably before God and Man, venture to marry the latter, notwithstanding the said solemn Vows and imprecations made on the Contract?

She is under great perplexity of mind and soul, and desires a full solution in every point, with the Reasons at large; she being resolved to be governed by your Judgment, and to act as you shall prescribe. Your speedy answer is desired by, Your Impatient Servant, H. H.

*Ans.* If nothing more has past betwixt you besides this, and if A. B. is willing to Release you fairly, without constraint, provocation, &c. we believe you may marry any one else, but tho nothing more has past betwixt but what is mention'd, if A. B. will not give up his Interest in you; you cannot honestly dispose of your self otherwise, for your obligations were mutual and not essential to marriage, therefore one coaling the other also may, but you'll do well to take the opinion of some able Divine in the matter, and not rely wholly on ours.

Quest. 4. I desire your answer to these following questions; In the County of Cheshire, there was an old man and he had a Son; And there was an old woman and she had a Daughter, the old man marries the Daughter of the old woman, and the old woman the mans Son: And they each of them had Children. Now I desire to know what relation the Children had one to another.

*Ans.* If a Daughter, 'twill be both Aunt and Neice at once; if a Son, both Uncle and Nephew.

Quest. 5. The other question is, there was a mad man, got a mad woman with Child in New-Bethlehem. Now I desire to know when the Child is born, whether it will have its perfect senses when it comes to years of discretion

*Ans.* Tarry till the Event gives the answer, if you are impatient for an answer, the best way would be to bespeak a place there to be ready against the time of delivery.

Quest. 6. To make three Points on a direct Line, each point five yards Distance; how many yards must the Center be from the Line to hit all the three.

*Ans.* Take  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the Square of 5, and extract the Square root thereof; the result is the answer.

Quest. 7. Among several little quibbles which lately past o're a Glass of wine, this was one. A man of 60 years of age marries a woman of 20, when it plainly appears, he is thrice the age of his wife; they both live together 20 years, no more nor no less, and, not one, a minute faster or longer then 'tother; that then the woman surmounts, or comes to be half her husbands age: As, he would be 80, and she 40. Now though we know the thing falls out ipse facto so, and the question here, but silly and ridiculous to propose, much less worth a three penny postage; yet Gentlemen you would extremely graciously a particular persons humour (who will not eitherways be convinc'd,) by setting forth plain and demonstrative reasons why it is so.

*Ans.* There was a little boy of 5 years old would still be fighting with his little sister of 8 years old, because she was older than he, and in the midst of the battle always told her that he should shortly overtake her; what art do you think this youngster had?

Quest.



Quest. 8. To find the Area, or Content of an Oblique Spherical Triangle, with the sides being given?

Ans. See Mr. Caswell's Spherical Trigonometry, bound up with Dr. Wallis's Algebra?

Quest. 9. Can you find me a Number, which with a given Number shall be equal to the Square of the Number sought?



Ans. Yes, and every little Algebraist besides; let  $a$  be the given Number  $x$  the Number sought. Then as is  $x = \sqrt{a + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}}$ .

Quest. 10. How much does a mans head walk more than his feet, supposing to travel a thousand miles.

Ans. Supposing he moves regularly, his head takes so much a greater Circuit, then his feet, as is the mention'd part of a Circle, whose Radius is the Semidiameter of the Earth, to a Correspondent part of a Circle, whose Radius is the Semidiameter of the Earth together with the mans height.

That is, let  $r$  be the Radius of the Circle of the Earth,  $b$  the height of the person,  $c$  any parts of the Circumference that the feet walk. Then as,  $r : c :: r + b :$

$c + r + b =$  to Circumference the mans head describes.

Quest. 11. Who is the best Mathematician in Europe.

Ans. Mr. Newton of Cambridge.

Quest. 12. The 4 sides of a Trapezium being given  $a, b, c, d$ , and the Area  $s$ , to find the Diagonal?

Ans. This question will arise to a Biquadratic Equation, 2 of whose Roots are the 2 Diagonals. If this hint won't help you, send again and we'll give you the Expression at large.

### Advertisement.

††† An Essay towards an History of all the Remarkable Providences, &c. which have hapned in this present Age. By William Turner, M. A. and Vicar of Walberton in Suffex. To be publish'd by way of Subscription. Proposals and Specimens, giving a full Account of this Work, will be publish'd in few days by the Undertaker, John Duntun, at the Raven in Jewen-street, and by Edm. Richardson, near the Poultry Church.

The History of all Religions in the World, from the Creation down to this Present Time. In Two Parts. The first containing their Theory, and the other relating their practices; With Various instances upon Every Head. To which is added, a Table of Heresies: as also a Geographical

Map, shewing in what Countrey Each Religion is Practised. Written in a different Method from any thing yet published on this Subject. By William Turner, M. A. and Vicar of Walberton in Suffex.

\*\*\* The 16th Volume of the Athenian Mercury is now published, Resolving all the most nice and curious questions proposed by Ladies and Gentlemen, relating to Divinity, Philosophy, Love, Marriage, History, Physick, Law, Mathematicks, Trade, &c. from Tuesday, Decemb. 18. to Saturday, March 30. 1695.

Lachrymæ Sacerdotis. A Pindarick Poem Occasion'd by the Death of that most excellent Princess, our late Gracious Sovereign Lady, Mary the Second of Glorious memory. By Henry Park, Curate of Wentworth in Yorkshire. All Four printed for John Duntun, at the Raven in Jewen-street. And are also to be sold by Edm. Richardson, near the Poultry Church.

There is a Proposal Published for a Lottery on a Fund of blank Tickets of 8000 l. per Annum, in which the odds are but 9 to one against the Prizes, and all the blanks receive their whole money again; and Interest at 7 l. per Cent. till it be paid. The method being the same with that of the Million Adventure, the security the same, and the blanks receive 1 l. per Cent, more than the Million Lottery did allow, being managed by the Commissioners of the said Million Lottery,

The Prizes are.		
1 of	1000	1000
1	500	500
1	400	400
1	300	300
6	200	1200
10	100	1000
180	50	9000
200	33	6600

20000

The Proposals at large may be had at Sir Stephen Evans, Sir John Sweetapple, Smith and Spinks, and Thomas Williams in Lombard-street, Edward Mompesson in Birch Lane, James Haller and Edward Harrison in Cheapside, Robert Bowles in Fleet-street, C. Haller and Joseph Fell in the Strand Goldsmiths, who are receivers, and are security for the Adventurers till the Lottery be drawn.

MR. Switerda (Recommended to and by our gracious K William), who has passed 16 years in England, and bestowed a great deal of monies in publishing and notifying to the Nobility and Gentry his Parts and Talents, which he has by his travelling and Industry acquired, to teach Gentlemen and Ladies of age, yea Children (if they can but read and write English) to speak Latin and French fluently, and that truly and properly according to Grammar-Rules; and no wise Pedantick; and to explain any Author in 12 years time: but all the aforesaid time no Nobleman nor Ladies have taken Notice of his Proposals; which if he had sent them in all Countries beyond Sea, had been well accepted to his great advantage. If any Tutor to a Nobleman, can produce a better method, or can make a greater and more visible Improvement in the Latin Tongue, in 3 months time, the said Mr. Switerda is to lose 20 l. Blaterones qui virulentis obrektionibus a tergo ne lariant, & methodum meam in canum mordacium morem suis convitiis & diffeniis lacerant non pluris facio, quanti cuticum Elephas Indicus. He teacheth Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in Queen-street, near St. Th. Apostles, at the Bunch of Grapes, and the other days at his house in Arundel-street, next to the White Lyon; where you may have some Directions for the Latin Tongue in 4 sheets of paper, and Syntaxin Ornata; as also Latin and French Historical Cards. He teacheth the Ladies twice a week abroad.